

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies degree in the UW Bothell Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the graduate faculty in the UW Bothell Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program to offer the Master of Arts in Cultural Studies (MACS), effective immediately. The Master of Arts in Cultural Studies degree program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled by the Graduate School in the 2011-2012 academic year.

BACKGROUND

In January 2005, the Graduate School received a proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies degree program from the graduate faculty in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program at UW Bothell. The MACS curriculum situates this critical study of culture in relation to the regional needs of the diverse local, national, and global communities served by UW Bothell and the other two UW campuses. It will be the first graduate program in the Pacific Northwest, and one of the very few programs nationally, to partner the interdisciplinary study of art and culture with a community-based learning network. The MACS degree program is a 40-credit core curriculum that will culminate with a capstone project. Each Autumn Quarter cohorts of 18 students will be admitted on a full-time basis. Program implementation will occur in Autumn Quarter 2007.

The Master of Arts in Cultural Studies at UWB will provide graduate students with the knowledge and skills necessary for their success in two areas: 1) Professional careers in community-based arts, culture, and social service organizations, for profit and not-for-profit; 2) Further academic study in the interdisciplinary arts, humanities, and social sciences. The MACS curriculum stresses the integration of skills, abilities, and fields of knowledge central to interdisciplinary education (critical theoretical approaches, problem-posing and problem-solving capacities, critical research methodologies, and creative and effective writing and speaking) with community-based experiences, applied research, and experiential learning opportunities.

MACS graduate will be able to: 1) Identify, analyze, and address specific structural location of cultural issues and debates, and propose creative and effective interventions; 2) Recognize, critically address, and collaboratively negotiate cultural diversity and difference in a variety of educational and institutional sites; 3) Move effectively from project conception to project execution through both critical and immersive techniques that engage specific publics; 4) Work as researchers,

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educators, activities, artists, and problem-solvers in a variety of cultural and organizational arenas.

In Spring Quarter 2005, review of the MACS proposal was conducted by two experts in the field from the State University of New York at Buffalo, NY and the University of California at Davis, CA. The external reviewers' evaluations noted the proposal reflected the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences faculty's clear sense of Cultural Studies as a research and

teaching field and articulated a clear and distinctive vision for an MA program that connects theory and method with practical cultural work in communities, and will prepare students in unique ways for PhD programs. They recommended that the MACS program be approved.

On January 26, 2006, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) approved the proposed Master of Arts in Cultural Studies. The HECB's Resolution No. 06-01 noted: 1) the program would respond to demonstrated student demand and provide students a unique mix of academic work in arts and culture and practical experience in community-based organizations; 2) would serve a need expressed by employers for graduate level trained workers with leadership and community engagement skills, and 3) would serve the community through engagement of students and graduates in a variety of community based organizations. The HECB indicated the program costs are reasonable.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Chancellor at UW Bothell, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation that authority be granted to the graduate faculty of the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program at UW Bothell to offer the Master of Arts in Cultural Studies degree program. The Graduate School will inform the HECB that the program has been established if it is approved by the Board of Regents.